



LOCAL HEAT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY STRATEGY

Report by CHIEF EXECUTIVE

PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to seek approval for the Comhairle's Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022 places a duty on local authorities to prepare, publish and update a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan by 31 December 2023, to keep this under review and publish an updated LHEES every 5 years.
- 2.2 The LHEES sets out the long-term plan for the entire local authority area to decarbonise heat and improve energy efficiency.
- 2.3 As part of the development of the Comhairle's LHEES, a draft Strategy and Delivery Plan went to consultation on the Comhairle's 'We asked, you said, we did' consultations webpage. Responses have been considered and the draft Strategy and Deliver Plan have been revised to incorporate feedback received.
- 2.4 The revised draft Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy is at Appendix 1 to the report and the revised draft Delivery Plan is at Appendix 2.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Comhairle
 - (a) Consider the responses from public consultation and the proposed amendments to the draft Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan
 - (b) Approve the revised Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan appended to the report.

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Appendix 1:	Revised Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy
Appendix 2:	Revised Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy Delivery Plan

IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The following implications are applicable in terms of the Report.

Resource Implications	Implications/None
Financial	There are no financial implications in terms of this report however full implementation of the strategy will require financial resource to achieve the targets set out.
Legal	The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (Scotland) Order 2022 places a duty on local authorities to prepare, publish and update a Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy (LHEES), to keep this under review and publish an updated LHEES every 5 years.
Staffing	There are no staffing implications in terms of this report.
Assets and Property	There are no implications for assets and property in terms of this report. Full implementation of the strategy would require further consideration of assets and property, including how buildings are heated and the energy efficiency of buildings in the Comhairle's estate.
Strategic Implications	Implications/None
Risk	None.
Equalities	An Initial Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out and is appended to the Report.
Corporate Strategy	Reducing our carbon footprint, developing an island route map to Net Zero and protecting the unique natural environment which we have in the islands are strategic outcomes of the Comhairle's Corporate Strategy 22-27 which the LHEES aligns to.
Environmental Impact	The draft Strategy aims to have a positive environmental impact by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the decarbonisation of heat and improved energy efficiency of buildings across na h-Eileanan Siar.
Consultation	The draft strategy has been to public consultation. A summary of responses and subsequent amendments made to the draft is provided in the report.

BACKGROUND

- 5.1 The Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies Order places a duty on local authorities to produce Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies and Delivery Plans by 31 December 2023, and subsequently on a 5 yearly cycle, in line with guidance to be provided by Scottish Ministers.
- 5.2 As set out in the Scottish Government's Heat in Buildings Strategy, Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) are at the heart of a place based, locally-led and tailored approach to the transition to net zero buildings. These local Strategies will provide an area- based 'blueprint' for decarbonised heat and energy efficiency planning and delivery.
- 5.3 LHEES are primarily driven by Scotland's statutory targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction and can support achievement of statutory fuel poverty targets:
- Net zero emissions by 2045 and 75% reduction by 2030
 - In 2040, as far as reasonably possible, no household in Scotland is in fuel poverty
- 5.4 LHEES are structured into two parts:

1. A Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy is a long-term strategic framework for: the improvement of the energy efficiency of buildings in the local authority's area, and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the heating of such buildings.

2. A Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Delivery Plan is a document setting out how a local authority proposes to support implementation of its Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy.

- 5.5 The LHEES sets out the long-term plan for the entire local authority area to decarbonise heat and improve energy efficiency of buildings across the entire local authority area, framed around the LHEES considerations and taking local priorities into account. The LHEES Considerations are heat networks; off-gas grid buildings; on-gas grid buildings, poor building energy efficiency; poor building energy efficiency as a driver for fuel poverty; and mixed-tenure, mixed-use and historic buildings.

THE COMHAIRLE'S LHEES

- 6.1 The Comhairle's LHEES Strategy was developed utilising the LHEES methodology to review local and national policy and strategy; provide baseline data and an overview of ongoing activity on heat decarbonisation, energy efficiency improvements and fuel poverty; and generate Strategic Zones which could be the focus of near-term programmes and projects, and more granular spatial Delivery Areas.
- 6.2 The proposed vision of the Comhairle's LHEES is that: "Highly energy efficient buildings throughout our islands reduce fuel poverty, enabling the transition to decarbonised heat and decreasing our buildings' contribution to climate change."
- 6.3 The proposed priorities of the Comhairle's LHEES are:
- Improved energy efficiency in domestic properties
 - Reduction in households living in fuel poverty
 - Heat is decarbonised in domestic buildings
 - Heat is decarbonised in non-domestic buildings

Targets have been set to align with national targets for each of these priorities.

- 6.4 The LHEES Delivery Plan was developed in partnership with key stakeholders and aims to provide a strong basis for action for local communities, government, investors, developers and wider stakeholders, and pinpointing areas for targeted intervention and early, low-regrets measures.
- 6.5 The Comhairle's LHEES Delivery plan focusses on using the evidence-base from the LHEES to better target key priority areas, align with existing plans, programmes, and activities, engage with stakeholders, and develop a portfolio of projects.

CONSULTATION

- 7.1 As part of the development of the Comhairle's LHEES, a draft LHEES Strategy and Delivery Plan went to public consultation on the Comhairle's ['We Asked, You Said, We Did' \(cne-siar.gov.uk\)](https://cne-siar.gov.uk) webpage between Monday the 23rd of October and Friday the 22nd of September. Individuals and organisations were invited to submit comments on the Draft Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan.
- 7.2 A total of 3 completed responses were received. This included 1 response from an individual and 2 responses from organisations. The organisations which responded to the consultation were Historic Environment Scotland and Community Energy Scotland.

- 7.3 Community Energy Scotland expressed support for the draft Strategy. One respondent expressed that the draft strategy was difficult to understand, and that Resources and Support and Strategic Zones were unclear. The Strategy was reviewed and reformatted with the aim of improving clarity. An extended Executive Summary was also developed, providing a summary of the findings of each chapter.
- 7.4 Several comments were received on traditionally constructed buildings. These related to identifying these buildings and specific guidance on their retrofit. The Strategy was amended to provide additional detail on these types of buildings, including a link to the available guidance. Additional detail on learning from past energy efficiency projects was also requested – this was added to the draft in Chapter 10 – Progress and Opportunities.
- 7.5 Potential barriers to delivery were raised, including costs & workforce challenges were raised, along with concern about targets on EPC being unrealistic. A Chapter on Challenges was added to the strategy to pull together information on challenges to delivering the Comhairle's LHEES. Targets have been set to align with national targets and the draft strategy recognises that not all properties will be able to achieve the targets.
- 7.6 The importance of performance monitoring and reporting was also stressed, as was the need for collaboration for delivery. The Draft Strategy was amended to provide additional emphasis on the need for performance monitoring of all projects. To support this, an action on performance monitoring and reporting was also added to the draft Delivery Plan. The Delivery Plan focusses on collaboration between stakeholders to align the LHEES with existing plans, programmes, and activities throughout the islands, engage with stakeholders and develop a portfolio of projects. The Delivery Plan was amended to include additional actions relating to traditionally constructed buildings, performance monitoring, governance, and skills, based on feedback from the consultation.

CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Responses to the Comhairle's public consultation on the draft Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan have been considered and incorporated into a revised draft Strategy and Delivery Plan.
- 8.2 It is recommended that the updated draft Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Delivery Plan, appended to the report, is approved.